

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 SS-15

NSC-05 SNM-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /041 W

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 991

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PRISONER SERVICES: "AMERICAN ESCAPE COMMITTEE"

REF: A) STATE 089262; B) STATE 090249

1. REFTEL A) RECEIVED NOON APRIL 14. CONTENTS INCLUDING ALLEGATION HERMOSILLO WOULD BE FIRST TARGET "AMERICAN ESCAPE COMMITTEE" (AEC) CONVEYED SAME DAY TO SONORA STATE SECGEN IN ABSENCE GOVERNOR WHO STILL AT CIUDAD OBREGON IN CONNECTION WITH LAND INVASION PROBLEMS. SECGEN COMMUNICATED FORTHWITH WITH STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DETERMINED DESIRABILITY TRANSFERRING AMCIT PRISONERS FROM OUTLYING (NOGALES AND SAN LUIS) PRISONS SERVING NARCOTICS RELATED SENTENCES TO HERMOSILLO PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION CENTER. TRANSFER OF PRISONERS FROM NOGALES, MALE AND FEMALE, ACCOMPLISHED DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 14 - 15 WITH MILITARY ESCORT PROVIDED BY FOURTH MILITARY ZONE COMMANDER.

2. CONOFF CALLED ON SONORA STATE PRISON SYSTEM DIRECTOR LIC. ACUNA GRIEGO EARLY TODAY APRIL 15 TO BRIEF HIM ON AEC THREATS, REQUEST INDICATION OF STATE DIRECTOR'S PLANS, AND EXPRESS BELIEF THAT VAST MAJORITY OF AMCIT PRISONERS IN THIS STATE PERSONALLY UNSYMPATHETIC TO AEC PLANS. ACUNA GRIEGO INFORMED CONOFF OF TRANSFER DURING NIGHT OF A NUMBER OF AMCIT PRISONERS FROM NOGALES, AND OF INTENTION TO MOVE SHORTLY THOSE AT SAN LUIS AWAITING TRIAL. DIRECTOR STATED HIS OWN CONVICTION THAT AMCIT PRISONERS NOT SYMPATHETIC WITH AEC OBJECTIVES, WITH GREAT MAJORITY SATISFIED TO COMPLETE SENTENCES AND GAIN RELEASE THROUGH "REMI-UNCLASSIFIED

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SION PARCIAL" WITH GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

3. ACUNA GRIEGO STATED FOURTH MILITARY ZONE COMMANDER GENERAL PEREZ ORTIZ HAD ARRANGED FOR DEPLOYMENT SUFFICIENT MILITARY FORCES AROUND HERMOSILLO DETENTION CENTERS TO RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO ATTACK SAME AND REMOVE INMATES.

4. GOVERNOR CARRILLO TELEPHONED CONGEN NOON APRIL 15 FROM CIUDAD OBREGON TO ADVISE HE WAS BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF AEC RELATED DEVELOPMENTS. HE REPORTED TRANSFER LAST NIGHT FROM NOGALES ADDING THAT DURING MOVE PICKUP TRUCK CARRYING FIVE SOLDIERS BLEW OUT TIRE ON A CURVE AND OVERTURNED. TWO OCCUPANTS DIED OF INJURIES AND OTHER THREE SERIOUSLY INJURED. GOVERNOR WAS INFORMED OF CONOFF MEETING WITH ACUNA GRIEGO EARLIER TODAY AND ASKED TO BE KEPT ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH DIRECTOR AND SECGEN, UNDERTAKING TO KEEP CONGEN INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON MEXICAN SIDE.

5. REGRETFULLY CONCUR WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION THAT DEPARTMENT DISCOURAGE ANY ATTEMPT BY AMCIT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS TO VISIT PRISONS IN SONORA DURING THESE EASTER HOLIDAYS. THIS IS UNFORTUNATELY PRICE THAT AMCIT PRISONERS WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR WHAT GOVERNOR CALLED PUBLICITY SEEKING THREATS OF "AMERICAN ESCAPE COMMITTEE". WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN SONORAN PRISONS ARE BEING HELD IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT, OR ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO ANY MISTREATMENT ON THAT ACCOUNT. THEIR PRINCIPAL DISCOMFORT LIES IN THEIR TRANSFER FROM INSTITUTIONS ON BORDER WHERE THEY WERE CLOSE TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS, COMPENSATED AT LEAST IN PART BY FACT THAT HERMOSILLO CENTER IS MUCH LESS CROWDED AND BETTER EQUIPPED. WE PLAN VISIT TRANSFERRED PRISONERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EASTER WEEKEND.
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